

I have had sight of a written “pre-submission” to the Canadian authorities by one Balwant Persaud – a known shady character who operates in the refugee seekers’ market in Canada.

Persaud’s “pre-submission” to the Canadian Authority in favour of two Guyanese refugee seekers in Canada smacks of wild and unsubstantiated allegations in respect of the Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In addition, Balwant Persaud accuses the Government of Guyana to be engaging in certain activities to justify his application for refugee claimants namely Mr. & Mrs Lall, whom I never knew nor ever met to this day, contrary to Mr. Persaud’s claims.

It is noted that Mr. Persaud rolled out his story in a foreign jurisdiction making serious allegations against a serving Minister of Government.

If these occurrences did take place in Guyana why were they never reported to the Guyana Police Force before the refugee seekers hustled away to Canada?

It is to be regretted that the Ministry of Home Affairs was never offered the opportunity by the Canadian Authority to respond on behalf of the Government of Guyana to the unsubstantiated “disclosures” by Mr. Persaud. However, it appears that Mr. Persaud did succeed in duping the Canadian Authorities into believing his story.

To claim that the State is engaged in kidnapping and cybercrime without offering a scintilla of evidence is not only reckless but is tantamount to creating public mischief – a criminal offence in Guyana.

## **Press statement**

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Whenever he chooses to visit Guyana again, Mr. Persaud will be expected to inform the local law enforcement agencies about these allegations against the Minister.

Anyone making such spurious allegations against a Minister of Home Affairs of any country must support the allegations with incontrovertible evidence. Moreover, to level such charges against the Minister who is responsible for public order is to parrot the jaundiced view by some that a state of lawlessness obtains in Guyana – a claim that has repeatedly been exposed time and again as false and deserves to be scoffed at by all right thinking Guyanese and the international community.

What makes Persaud's claims even more scandalous is the position adopted by the Canadian Authority to believe such unadulterated nonsense from a loose cannon, and a man with a tainted character without seeking to clarify the lies and slanders in Persaud's submission.

However, whenever he returns to Guyana Mr Persaud would be expected to demonstrate a sense of responsibility by immediately reporting these matters to the Police so that they could be investigated thoroughly.

In the meantime as Minister of Home Affairs I reject in its entirety Balwant Persaud's falsehoods presented to the Canadian Authority.